WENDELL POST

Vol. VI No. 4 November - December 1983 25¢

Route 2 Update

About 100 hikers who'd come to see first-hand the proposed path of Route 2 through Wendell flopped in a secluded meadow halfway through their hike and took a lunch break. George Gulick, now of Cambridge, stood up and described the history of Wendell Concerned Citizens, a group he helped form. Anne Zak, organizer of the event, read a statement from Mass. Audubon opposing the Wendell path on the grounds that it would "degrade both the Millers River and Wendell State Forest."

As people passed cookies and enjoyed the fall colors, some tried to imagine the rush of highway traffic through the field and on across the mountainside.

It was much easier to imagine an upgraded Route 2 over where the traffic could be heard coursing rhrough Erving almost directly across the river. This is the solution advocated by most of those, including Mass. Audubon and Wendell Concerned Citizens, who reject the South Bank plan. It's contained in the Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

The hikers first gathered in Wendell Depot, the village where the road would create some of its greatest damage, and were welcomed by Michael Idoine, who described the problem with the help of a 40-ft. model generously lent by the Mass. Department of Public Works. Myron Becker, representing several state and private environmental groups, zeroed in on some of the specific effects the project would have on fish and wildlife, particularly in the area where he stood, where two brooks and the Millers River create a fish spawning grounds and rich wildlife habitat.

Sweeping waves of the hand helped hikers visualize the community split in two by an embankment over the home and antique engine museum of the Doug Johnson family, well over forty feet high where it crosses Whetstone Brook. The embankment and connector ramps added to the railroad tracks and the towering bridge of the present Rt. 2, will cause the Depot to be dominated by the sights and sounds of America on the move.

People boarded buses to take them to Farley for the start of the actual hike. While passing in the bus through Erving, group leaders showed where upgrade plans called for straightening the curves past Erving Paper Mill and moving the parking lot to the same side of the road as the plant. In the center they described proposed turning lanes to separate through from local traffic. The blind spot in Farley at the turn onto Bridge Street spoke for itself of the need for safety improvements as are proposed under the upgrade ...though leaders didn't fail to point it out.

Enroute to the lunch-break meadow, hikers followed old dirt roads that parallel the highway's proposed path. At a stream they bent over to see deer tracks alongside the clear water (deer "aren't a significant animal community in the project area," according to the Environmental Impact Statement). A half mile further, stopped alongside the Millers River, the first group saw a blue heron land, look about for a moment, and take off from a shoal.

Past the meadow the hikers marched single file on old logging roads that skirt steep ravines, peered into an antique cistern, and saw the signs of former civilization in handsome stone walls along the edge of a high bluff. In such a place, Jonathan von Ranson put Wendell State Forest into the perspective of "the closest Massachusetts comes to a true wilderness" and sang a song composed for the occasion.

At the end of the four-mile walk, footweary hikers were the first to sign a new petition organized by the Committee for a Rt. 2 Upgrade, a regional group favoring reconstruction of the present route instead of the South Bank alternative.

Cont' p. 2

Inside Stories:

Signs in New Salem p. 4
Wendell Depot P.O. p. 8
Wendell Tax Map p. 6
New Salem for Peace p. 7

Guest Editorial

Because of where I live - on a desert isle in the middle of the Millers River between Erving and Wendell - I'm getting alot of refugees from the Route 2 War. I keep a kettle on the stove for them, and have scorched more than one pot lately by leaving the house to help them land their battered launches and pathetically over loaded ferries.

One man desperately trying to make it to neutral territory hit a snag 20 yards off shore with the waterlogged copy of the Environmental Impact Statement he was paddling and I had to reel him in with an old surveyor's tape that washed up in a storm.

Refugees from the Wendell side bring stories of intense religious persecution. "You can't worship openly any mrore," a 31 year old social worker told me. "Those of us who believe in high speed interchanges have to meet in secret." One older woman complained that, when the Route 2 War flared up again a few months ago, Wendell thugs entered her house and - while she stood helpless - beat her car keys into plowshares.

There's apparently no stopping the attempts to sieze control of Town Meeting and pass articles against nuclear bomb tests on the Wendell Common, or the constant sneaking off to the library to study the winter movements of larger animals species.

Meanwhile, it's chaos in Erving. Since they rolled in the big guns for the offensive to move Route 2 southward some 1,000 yards into Wendell-controlled territory, the people have been filled with both high spirits and anxiety. Along with the usual wartime euphoria ("Aah, the drubbing we'll give 'em...!), there's a post Vietnam cynicism about the econmic motive behind road wars ("Who are we to push anybody around, even those schnooks?"). All but the most dedicated Erving partisans are a little nervous, despite plenty of basic training dodging trailer trucks.

Getting caught in the crossfire between opposing petition drives is what convinced the first Erving family to flee. "My neighbor - he's six foot six - tried to get me to

Cont' p. 2

George Newton Greenfield Recorder

Charles Smith, pondering Rte. 2 model, explains alignment to hikers while Jonathan von Ranson and Michael Idoine, two of walk organizers, look on.

Rte. 2 cont'

sign this petition to move the highway," said the disheveled husband "but I'd already signed a petition to improve it where it is. How do I get into messes like this?"

A dental hygienist, worried that word was getting around about close relatives of hers who believe in state forests, left town under cover of darkness.

It took a refugee state employee, a Department of Public Works surveyor, to put the whole thing in perspective. Mistaken for a commando while he walked the hills with his transit, he was tied to a tree with marking ribbons and left for the chipmunks. He managed to wriggle loose and make it over the rocks to my island.

"Wendell made a tactical mistake," he panted, "by not buying any big guns. Would've been worth it: they could've tried to push Route 2 up into the north side of Erving, and then there would've been a decent compromise to settle on - leave it right where it is, just make it wider and straighter."

He looked up and down the river that is the border of the two battle-weary towns. "Now, the only compromise is to bring it right through your island here. Tough job, but I think we can do it. Got a cup of something hot?"

Jonathan von Ranson

Guest Editorial cont'

At this writing, the petition has gathered 1,000 signatures and is being countered by a petition distributed by the Athol-Orange Area Chamber of Commerce to town selectboards, chambers of commerce, "and trucking companies" from Leominster to North Adams. "We can't match their resources" an organizer of the upgrade petition said, "but we consider it significant that 75-90% of the people we approach in door-to-door work or shopping centers sign ours."

Besides representatives of the sponsoring groups and Audubon, walkers included delegates from the offices of State Senator Robert Wetmore, State Rep. Bill Benson, and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth. Although specific invitations were sent, no one was present from Erving or the Athol-Orange Chamber of Commerce, the locus of the impetus to move the highway to Wendell.

Many of the Hikers were from Orange, informed of the hike by a lively poster designed by Amy Hubert.

by Argyle Gargoyle

KLONDIKE SOUND CO.

Professional Sound Systems

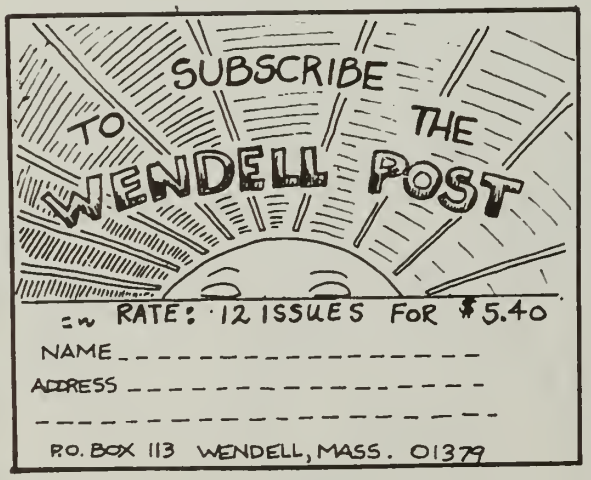
SALES - RENTALS

STAGE MANAGEMENT

John "Klondike" Koehler

617-544-2744

WENDELL, MA. 01379



WENDELL POST

Vol. VI No. 4

CONTACT STAFF

Anne Diemand	544-6111
Michael Idoine	544-2623
Kathy-Ann Becker	544-2086
Brenda Vincent	544-3981
Lisa Aubin	544-7636
Donna Huntington	544-7645

NEW SALEM CONTACT

Jane Schoenberg 544-7532

STAFF

Bev Cowdrick
David White
Jonathon von Ranson
Susan DunLany
Helen Grow
Teri Nelson

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Judice

CONTRIBUTORS

Marion Herrick
Harry Williston
Maryvonne Kutch
Everett Ricketts
David Boatwright
Rita Farrell
Bev Cowdrick
Myron Becker
Anna Hartjens
Laurel Wilson
Ed Chase
Les Black
Teri Nelson
Elsie Diemand
Donna Huntington

CONTRIBUTORS FROM NEW SALEM

Bradley Fisher
Ted Voutselas
Mary Ann Palmieri
Nat Needle

Circulation: 375
Box 113, Wendell, Mass. 01379
Printer: Highland Press, Athol
Subscriptions: Anne Diemand
Advertising: Lisa Aubin
Subscription rate: 12 issues for $5.40

An open letter

Dear Readers,

On Sept. 21,1983 my sister-in-law, Lorie was killed in a tractor accident on the farm. While writing her obituary for the Post, there was so much I wanted to say, but not knowing how to say it and wondering if that was the right place for it.

Lorie had lived with us on the farm for many years. She was one person we could count on when we needed an extra pair of hands to help us. She loved our children and she loved her animals - they were her pride- always said she liked them because they didn't talk back to her, at least not in words she understood. She was one strong lady, she knew what she wanted and knew what she believed in.

Lorie was the first person that I've known, that I'd see just about every day, that took care of my child, that was someone I knew was there for me, who has died. It's quite a shock when someone this close dies.

Lorie's life was one of troubled times and good times. It seems for the past year she'd been having many more good times than not. She got to really know her sister, Lynn, who lived in Amherst for the past year and just moved back to N.Y.C. recently. She arranged for Danab to get into Linden Hill School this August. So many things she was getting together in her life. I'm very glad for her for that.

It's hard to try and sum up someone's life in a few paragraphs, The joy that I feel for having known Lorie, all the memories I have of her, her gentleness and her strength, all the things we agreed on and disagreed on, knowing that we would make it together. There's an emptiness in my heart, death is such a personal thing, yet it helps to be able to share it. Lorie is one person I know I'm better for having known and I thank her for all she's given me

Anne Diemand

Land Transfers

7- 1-83 Allyn Coombs, Inc. to Janet Wiseman 7.50 acres on New Salem Rd.

7- 5-83 Haldiman and Judith Putman to Danette Reynolds, house on Wicket Pond Rd.

7-13-83 Kenneth and Muriel Addison to Linda Chandler, buildings and 5 acres on West Rd.

8-15-83 Allyn Coombs, Inc. to Alfred Souza, 9.545 acres on Plain Rd.

Vital statistics

Births

Shane Kendall Lavoie was born on Aug. 25,1983 at 8:04 a.m. in Northampton. Congradulations to Paula (Pam) Lavoie and Thomas Lavoie of Cooleyville Rd.

Emily Rita Gilman was born on Sept. 2, 1983 at 1:50 p.m. in Malden. Congratulations to Mary Cunningham-Gilman and Robert Adin Gilman of Main St.

Tessa Rose White-Diemand was born on Sept. 8, 1983 at 5:09 a.m. in Montague. Congratulations to Anne Diemand and David White of Farley Rd.

Jesse Paul Magnuson was born on Sept. 12,1983 at 4:54 a.m. in Greenfield. Congratulations to Janet Magnuson and Peter Magnuson of New Salem Rd.

Marriage

Teri Nelson and John "Klondike" Koehler were married on October 8th in Memphis, TN. They spent their honeymoon at Cape Cod. On October 16th they had a celebration with friends at their home in Wendell.

Announcement

The name of Susan Dupre of Wendell was legally changed to Susan Dunlany at the Greenfield Court House on August 30, 1983

Police Log

9-12 car fire in stolen car on Farley Rd.
9-21 tractor accident at Diemand Egg Farm.
10- 1 door kicked in, Pelacani residence, New Salem Rd., nothing taken
10- 2 reports of roaming dogs on New Salem Rd.
10- 8 dog problem, Wendell Depot Rd.
10-14 school bus driver reported car passing stopped bus in center of town. Person involved was reprimanded.
10-16 dog hit on Farley cut-off
10-18 dog problem at Swift River School
10-25 alarm at Town Barn sounded at 11:10 p.m.

Fire Log

9-12 car fire on Farley Rd.
10-17 residential fire, Old Farley Rd., occupied by Joy Howard, owned by Linda Pirog.

Obituaries

Robert T. Lowell

Robert T. Lowell, 69, of Mormon Hollow Rd. died October 30, 1983 at the Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield.

Bob was born in Bristol, Vermont on Jan 15,1914. He has lived in Wendell for the past 14 years. He was a machinist at the Millers Falls Company, retiring in 1978. Bob was married to Bertha W. Thompson on Nov.5, 1936 in Starksboro, Vermont.

Besides hes wife, Bertha, he leaves two sons, Raymond G. and Robert T. Jr., both of Spirit Lake, Idaho; three daughters, Lois Crafts and Esther Phillips, both of Greenfield, and Roberta Crafts of Buckland;two sisters, Marguerite White and Doris Dike both of Bristol, Vermont; 23 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. A daughter, Rita Ganld, died in 1978.

Bob loved to bowl and was seen frequently at the French King Bowling Center.

While talking with a few of Bob's neighbors, they all mentioned his sense of humor- they told me of many practical jokes he loved to play. "Always joking around" was the first thing they said. Bob will be missed by his family and by his many friends and neighbors.

Lorie G. Diemand

Lorie G. (Rossiter) Diemand, 34, of Mormon Hollow Rd., died Sept. 21,,of injuries suffered when a tractor tipped over on her.

She was born in Bronxville, N.Y. on July 26,1949. Lorie lived in Wendell for the past eight years and lived in surrounding towns for a few years before that.

Lorie was a milk-testing supervisor within the dairy department of the Franklin County Extension Service. She was a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, working in the Franklin County area

Survivors include her husband, Anthony; a son, Danab both from Wendell; her mother, Marie (Ward) Rossiter Fahey, and her stepfather, John Fahey of Bronxville; two brothers Deed Rossiter of New York and William Rossiter of Ridgefield, Conn. and a sister, Lynn of New York City.

KIMBALL - COOKE INC
INSURANCE
SINCE 1936
SERVING ATHOL AREA
ALL LINES
CURTIS M. KIMBALL
FRANK MAGRONE JR.
CURTIS J. RAND
CHARLES J. WINN
YOUR Insurance Independent AGENT
312 MAIN ST 249-3273 ATHOL

The GREEN RIVER CAFE
3½ Osgood St.
Greenfield, Mass.
773-9077
serving the finest vegetarian meals
Breakfast & Lunch Monday-Saturday
Dinner, Live Entertainment
Friday & Saturday Nights
SUNDAY BRUNCH
8:00-2:00
catering

Wendell Depot Store
BREAKFAST · COFFEE · LUNCH
544·6682

Dr. Ludwick R. Benedetti
OPTOMETRIST
General Family Practice
Eye Care - Eye Examinations
Eye Glasses
All contact lens types,
gas permeable and soft
No-line Bifocals
Athol, Mass. 249-8931

Mother and 8 yr. old son looking for loving, wholesome home with other single parents in the Swift River School district. Financially O.K. Have car. Call Patrick at 544-7930.

Wendell Board of Health Notes

Submitted by Jean Esser
Member, Board of Health

This column is an addition to the Wendell Post that is intended to let you all know that the Board of Health is living and well and active in the town of Wendell.

We, as your elected representatives, want to remind you that we are interested in, responsive to and willing to deal with any question or concern that you may have regarding health and safety, whether public or private. If you need information, call us. If we don't have it, we will get it for you. So let us know what your needs are in regard to health services and we will try to answer them.

Synopsis of activities:

July 30th - Rabies clinic for dogs -- free to all Wendell residents -- 23 vaccinations done -- 13 new dog licenses issued.

Oct. 11th - flu vaccine clinic -- free to disabled Wendell residents and those over age 55 -- 11 vaccinations given.

Free blood pressure clinics -- first Tuesday of each month, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

On November 1st at 7 p.m. the Board of Health met with the Selectboard to notify them that as of November 1st, for health and safety reasons, the dog disposal facility at the town dump is officially closed. The Board of Health unanimously recommended that from that date on, all dogs be taken to a licensed veterinarian for disposal.

The Selectboard was also notified at that time that in the event of a snowstorm on a day when the dump would usually be open, the dump will be considered closed if the gates are not plowed out. All residents are advised not to dump any trash at the gates when the dump is closed.

We are now investigating available funding for other screening clinics and community services and will keep you posted through the Post.

Our meetings are in the Town Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and are open to everyone.

Numbers to call:

David Walsh, chairperson,	4-7409
David Wilder, member	4-2773
Jean Esser, member	4-7180
Jessie Wetherby, clerk	4-6451

Tel: (617) 544-3067

BENNETT CONSTRUCTION
Commercial and Residential

DEAN BENNETT

Jennison Road, Box 202
Wendell, MA 01379

PRESS
Wendell Post Reporter

Signs in New Salem

Over the past few months, the use of signs for advertising purposes in New Salem has become a rather hot issue. Several local businesses have been implementing signs that do not adhere to the bylaws of the zoning code. No one is interested in curtailing local business by limiting advertising. However, the planning board is responsible for intrepreting its bylaws and carrying out these laws in a fair and equal manner. Perhaps the following explanation submitted by planning board member, Ted Voutselas will help to clear the air:

AN EXPLANATION OF NEW SALEM ZONING BY-LAWS CONCERNING SIGNS

"On Premises" signs are those which are on the property at which the related business is conducted. These signs are regulated as follows:

Businessess which require a Special Permit for signs. Signs are restricted to a single sign not exceeding 40 sq. ft. or two signs not exceeding 30 sq. ft. each.

New businessess which are applying for a Special Permit are encouraged to include possible future signs, so that another Special Permit for the sign only will not be required at a future date.

A Special Permit is not required for the following "on premises" signs:

a. Resident may have a single sign up to 1 sq. ft.
b. A "Home Business" may have either one sign up to 6 sq. ft., or two signs up to 4 sq. ft. each.
c. A driveway entrance may have two signs up to 2 sq. ft. each
d. A church, school, or public building may have a single sign up to 18 sq. ft
e. A sign for the sale or lease of a building or lot may be up to 6 sq. ft. or two signs up to 4 sq. ft. each

"Off-Premises" signs are those which are not on the property where the related business is conducted.

These signs which are on State highways (Rtes.202 and 122) are allowed only with a permit issued by the Mass. outdoor Advertising Board. This board takes into account local zoning by-laws. In addition, it does not generally issue permits for signs in rural areas.

In all cases, the following signs are NOT permitted:

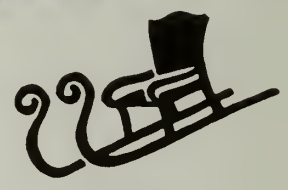
a. flashing, animated, or noise making signs
b. companion signs advertising successively or repetitively
c. reflectors, which are parts of letters
d. neon signs
e. exposed lighting outlining any part of a building, except for 4 wks. during a holiday season
f. any unscheduled signs which result in shining high intensity light on to any street or adjoining property.
g. signs may not be attached to a utility pole, tree, fence, rock or wall;except "No Hunting" or "No Trespassing" type signs.

An application for a permit for an "off Premises" sign may be obtained by writing to

Mass. Outdoor Advertising Board
Dept. of Public Works
100 Nashua St.
Boston, Ma.

Further information may be obtained by refering to Section 7F "Signs" of the zoning By-Law.

Signs which have been in continuous use since the adoption of the Zoning By-Law in 1969 are not controlled by the By-Law, and would be permitted to continue. If any significant changes are made, however, the Zoning By-Law would apply. This "Grandfather Clause" exemption does not apply to State regulated, "Off Premises" signs.



Wendell Christmas Party

The Wendell Ladies Aid is having the annual children's Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec.18,2-3p.m.. The Ladies Aid needs to raise money for the bags of gifts for the children's party so we are putting Santa cans in Wendell Depot Store, Wendell Country Store and the Wendell Library for the people to donate money to continue this tradition. so PLEASE HELP!

SPORTSPLEX
Nautilus
Aerobics Racquet ball
Life cycle Day care
Massage
Single rates
Family rates
Senior Citizens rates
544-7844

Combine physical well-being and firming with mental balance and serenity and you have

Yoga

with Susan Dunlany
Mondays 7 pm at the
Wendell School House

New Salem Store+Restaurant
Route 202
New Salem, Mass. 544-7393
Treat yourself to breakfast
Pancakes w/real maple syrup - fresh fruit - omelets -fresh squeezed juices.
Open
6:30-2:30
every day
except Tues.

Ed Judice

Wild-side Hiker's Lament

They're taking an interest in us out here,
Boston is looking this way - oh dear!
They're sending a load of macadam to town
And they don't know where to lay it down.

The Millers circles around the Bear
Like my uncle's curving front - hall stair.
Folks have left this slope we're lost in,
But they didn't leave it to Boston.

Over on the sunny side,
Route 2 will become a private drive
For someone who says, like Mohemmed Ali:
"Bring the peace and quiet of the mountain to me!"

One choice blasts the Wendell bank,
The other aims for the opposite flank -
For the hills of Erving, where, they say,
The executives' children live and play.

They're taking an interest in us out here,
Boston is looking this way - oh dear!
Do East and West really meet right here?
Well, why can't they meet at the Cottage for beer?

Which path to choose? Which town to lose?
This one don'ts, the other one do'es.
I'll take a third that passes the test,
She's the one that I like best.

I'd waltz her down by the paper mill
Which owes her a nod for a brimming till,
On into town a mile west
Where she'll give her straight and level best.

For she's back home to where she grew
A little bit rough, a little untrue,
But she'll be prudent, feasible, cool
When she comes home from finishing school.

They're taking an interest in us out here,
The gov'nor is looking this way - oh dear!
He's got his hopes pinned all over these trees -
Yonder is where he'll hang them please.

This is a song written by Jonathan von Ranson and performed by him at a deep wooded ravine on Bear Mountain for the people taking part in the Oct. 9 walk along the proposed South Bank Alignment.

New Salem Academy News

Nathaniel Needle

Yes, it's true. After 15 years of dormancy, New Salem Academy is open. We have four full-time faculty, 25 students, and a number of part-time and volunteer assistants. We are offering a college preparatory program with an emphasis on shared decision-making, active approaches to learning, and connecting curriculum to community service and current events in the world and locally.

Since our opening in September, much of our energy has gone into issues affecting our life together as a learning community: behavior, mutual respect, participation in educational activities, and care for the physical plant. Now we are really ready to put more energy into strengthening our academic activity and our quality of creative work, as well as our impact on the surrounding area.

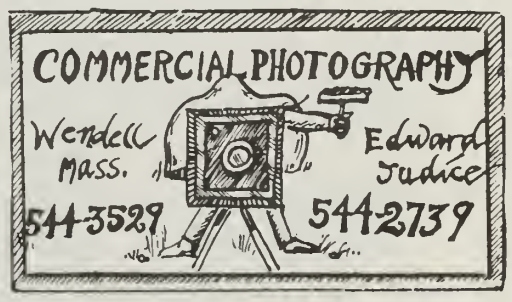
One event everyone should know about is our production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night", Saturday, Nov. 19th at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 20th, at 2 p.m. All shows will be at the New Salem Town Hall, and tickets will cost $2.00 at the door.

We also are hosting a "teach-in" about the arms race at the school, Nov. 21, 22, and 23. Area residents are welcome to come hear speakers and otherwise participate in several of the activities. Call Helen Boland at 544-3822 or 544-2207 for details, or just drop by.

Finally, we still need volunteers who wish to do a special class or workshop of their own, or assist staff in the teaching of classes. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated by staff and students alike!

For more information about us, please call 544-3822 or write to Box 28, New Salem, MA 01355.

Naturally, a million thanks to those who helped us get started!



Wendell Tax Map

A newly completed tax map of Wendell shows the acreage of Wendell State Forest to be 6952 acres - 1,000 less than the figure used by the Department of Environmental Management - and about 1,000 acres more than that used by the state Department of Revnue, according to Jessie Wetherby, chairman of the town Board of Assessors.

She said the new records, made under a contract with Ainsworth Associates, surveyors headquartered in South Deerfield, should should settle at last the long disputed issue of the state forest's size. The figure will be used for figuring the town's payments in lieu of taxes from the state. That payment this year totalled $92,416, or something under $14 an acre.

The precise new records, based on an aerial survey and land records and actual on-site inspections in a few cases, will also let the town compute its land mass in acres for the first time. At the moment, this figure is only a rough estimate of about 20,000 acres. Assuming that figure is correct, about one-third of the town is state forest.

The new acreage information necessitates changes in the tax records at town hall and Jessie is taking a leave from her supervisor's job with Green Thumb to laboriously correct 579 cards to reflect a new system of lot numbering and the more exact acreage. She has the help of fellow board member George Butler. The board recently adopted a new schedule of land valuation, too, and they are taking the occasion to calculate and write in the revised valuation for each parcel.

This schedule is shown in the accompanying chart. It was arrived at under pressure from the state to increase the valuation on homesites and building lots. Spencer- Fitts, Inc. of Belchertown studied recent sales to help determine the new valuations.

"We are doing as much as we can to keep values down," Jessie told the Post. "We don't have that many land sales, but some of them have been high." She said the new schedule is on a par with that of nearby towns like New Salem and Orange and Warwick, but that the state is reportedly pressuring them for an increase too. Once the changes have been made, all the property owners must be notified of their new valuation - based on both the more exact acreage figures and the new schedule of valuations - and a hearing held. Only then can the tax bills for the current year be sent out.

Ainsworth Associates supplied the town with cards for individual lots, two sets of maps, photos, and the surveys and deeds it used for the work. Copies of the aerial photos are available to anyone who wants them in either enlargements or contact prints, which are 9" x9" at a scale of 2,000 ft. to the inch. People may also buy copies of the maps by writing Ainsworth Associates at 20 Sugarloaf Street, South Deerfield, Ma. 01373

NEW LAND VALUATIONS
WENDELL BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Primary Sites (house lots)	1/4-1/2 ac	$3,500
	1/2-3/9 ac	4,500
	3/4-1 ac	5,000
Building Lots		3,500/ac
Back Land (unforested, up to 5 acres)		2,000/ac
Open Land		800/ac
Wood Land		400/ac
Waste		200/ac

Assessed Valuation
Town of Wendell
November 1983

	Properties	Valuation
Residential	321	$7,951,915
Residential/Commercial	3	239,588
Commercial	2	349,000
Unimproved land	222	1,378,129
Classified forest	29	45,777
Other	2	17,750
TOTAL	579	$9,982,159

Firemen's Association

On Saturday, Oct.15, the New Salem Fire men's Association held its annual steak dinner at the firehouse. New officers elected are: president,Tony Palmieri; secretary, Mike Jewett; and treasurer, Bill Hamilton. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Bruce Spencer who showed slides of his Canadian canue trip.

The election ushers in a change in fire department procedure. Fire chief, George Willard will continue to lead the department's fighting and fire prevention activities. The Association will be responsible for social activities, fund raising and community events.

The Association will meet from 7-7:30 the first Monday of every month at the firehouse on Rte. 202. The department will hold its regular monthly drills following this meeting at 7:30. New members are needed and urged to join.

The annual Christmas Potluck Supper, sponsored by the association will be held on Dec. 16 at 6 pm. Families are asked to bring a dish to share and their own plates and silverware. Steven Schoenberg will play and lead the Christmas carols and all children through the sixth grade will receive a gift from Santa.

by Mary Ann Palmieri

Wendell Church News

At the November planning meeting the Wendell Church established goals for 1984.

Our first goal is Stewardship. We are asking people of the community to support the church with prayers, presence, gifts and talents. Some specific areas in which we need help involve the other goals.

Church school and youth group. Wendell has a large population of young people. Let the church serve them through Christian education and perhaps they will be inspired to put their abundant energy to work for us. We need teachers and students.

Peace advocacy and social justice organization. United Church of Christ has a well-developed social action organization. If our community shows an interest we can tap their resources to become better informed citizens and also work toward solutions through a nationwide network.

Publicity. We need poster makers and media contacts.

Music. Wendell Church would love to make use of our local musical talent. We are open to traditional hymns and contemporary spiritual music.

Anyone interested in any of the individual goals is welcome to attend our monthly meeting, Tuesday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. If this time is not convenient call Chris Sullivan (4-7582) or Sylvia Wetherby (4-6146). We will also be holding individual meetings in each area.

Upcoming events in December:

Dec. 4, 6 p.m. Charles T. Smith will present the third and last in his series of Advent messages, The Messianic Prophecies. Shane Devine providing music.

Dec. 6, 10 a.m. Monthly planning meeting.

Dec. 11. Don Overlock and a group of UCC officials doing the service.

Dec. 18, 6 p.m. Christmas pageant presented by Wendell young people.
7:30 Annual Carol Sing

Dec. 25, 6 p.m. Christmas candles, carols, prayers.

Jan. 1. Happy New Year!
Time to start all our new projects.

Hawley Pharmacy
Millers Falls 413-659-3327
PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED
MEDICAL SUPPLIES
CARDS, GIFTS & SUNDRY ITEMS
S+H Green Stamps

Joseph A. Diemand D-B-A
MORMON HOLLOW AUTO
FOR DAMAGE-FREE TOWING
CALL (617) 544-6670
SPECIALIZING IN USED FORD PARTS
(617) 544-8502
800-922-8494
9-5 Mon. - Sat.
12-5 Sun.
Mormon Hollow Rd.
Wendell
24-HOUR TWO WAY
RADIO EQUIPPED

"DEAD TREE", Minaret Wilderness Area, California; south of Yosemite Park and adjacent to it.

photo by Don Pugh

Staff photographer, Don Pugh, presently on sabatical in western lands, sent on to Wendell folks some pictures from his trip. In the photo above he offers a view of the Tetons of Wyoming, big mountains, 11,000 feet and up, reflected in lake in the foreground. Thanks, Don!

A Heartfelt Thanks

Ellie Voutselas, librarian of the New Salem Library, will be leaving that position this coming January. Ellie has spent countless hours (many of them her own time) over the past four years reorganizing and making significant changes in our library. Anyone who has utilized the library has also witnessed its growth and improvement and much of this has been due to Ellie. She has catalogedthe entire children, adult, juvenile and nonfiction book collection and also assumed total responsibility of.selecting and purchasing new books. She has initiated several new projects in the library, some of them being: a young adult paperback section, a childrens play corner, a community resource board, a crafts, gardening and a homesteading section, and a local history section. She also hoped to obtain a federal grant with the libraries from Orange and Athol to purchase a large print book collection, which now circulates between these towns. She also served on a board from the Western Mass. Regional Library System reviewing policy and budget for the entire region, essentially representing the voice of the "small town libraries."

Ellie has made our library rather unique and a facility worthy of respect and for this, she has gained ours and a heartfelt thank you.

JAMES L. SENN
EXCATING CONTRACTOR
240 Wendell Rd, Millers Falls 659-3807

- LAND DEVELOPING
- GRADING
- ROADWAYS
- TRENCHWAYS
- SNOW REMOVAL
- FILL, LOAM, GRAVEL

SEPTIC TANKS · LEECH FIELDS INSTALLED

WEST RIVER BUILDERS
Tony Palmieri
• House Design & Construction
• Additions • Sunspaces • Kitchens
New Salem 544-2611

New Salem Town Hall Renovations

The New Salem Old Home Day Committee's application for available monies from Mass. Arts Lottery was approved by the New Salem Arts Lottery council. Pending state approval, the committee will receive $586.00. The committee proposed using these funds to upgrade the Town Hall, making it a more viable facility for cultural events. Plans to accomplish this would cover a five year span and would encompass new lighting, renovating the town piano and making the hall acoustically sound. The committee plans to seek funds and resources from other sources as well. Anyone interested in becoming involved with this project is most welcomed. Please call Jane Schoenberg

New preschool for Wendell and New Salem

For the past five years, Headstart has has operated a preschool in Wendell Center School. Their lease expired last spring and Headstart moved to North Orange. The Wendell - New Salem School Committee decided to continue the pre school at Wendell Center School. The pre school is being financed partly by the two towns and partly by our early childhood education grant. Nineteen children are presently enrolled in the program and they are taught by a teacher and a teacher's aide. School is in session mornings, beginning the second week of October through May.

Christine Heard

Call for a free consultation

Dr. Lloyd J. Lachow
Chiropractor

62 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

By Appointment
(413) 774-3348

New Salem for Peace

A group of people interested in promoting world peace is forming in New Salem. Main interests include educating ourselves about pertinent issues pertaining to peace and effective measures we can take to make meaningful gains in the peace movement. Anyone interested in becoming part of this group may call Jane Schoenberg at 544-7532. All are welcome and encouraged to attend monthly meetings.

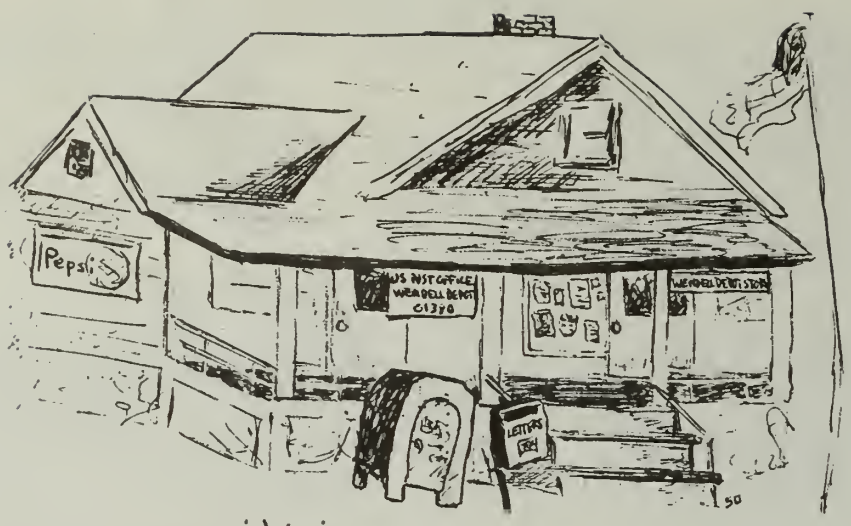
Wendell Free Library Notes

Our winter project has begun. Lois Carey, our librarian, and the trustees are in the process of sorting through books on the shelves; the ultimate goal being a completed card catalog and an effective utilization of the space available. With this goal accomplished, our library will be betber able to meet needs in the community. Materials in the collection will be more easily located and new acquisitions will more speedily find a place on the shelves. With a more complete inventory of materials on hand, priorities can be better established for gradually building up any areas that are lacking. This will take some time, and we ask you to excuse any inconvenience this could cause. As always, Lois will gladly help you to find an item or use her resourses to obtain it for you.

Our library is pleased to announce the availibility of a Polaroid Instant Sun Camera. The check out time is limited to one week instead of the usual two, as to allow for more circulation and patrons must be 18 years or older. Come in and take advantage!

Thanks to Jean Esser&Claudia Scully for your thoughtful donation of books. Thanks to Bob Leet, Charlie Shaw and Tilly Burnett for looking into maintainance on the building.

Diemand Egg Farm



P.O. is alive, well & living in Wendell Depot

Entering the Wendell Depot Post Office and Store you are faced with the bright colors of grocery displays and sweaters in the free box, the smell of coffee, and the sound of Maggie Babbitt laughing with her baby in the red-seated booth. In the postal section, Annie is getting stamps for Ed Judice as he turns the combination lock on one of the ancient brass and glass post boxes. The pace is slow and easy, like the presence of Raymond Avery on his accustomed stool on the left side of the counter. Annie's daughter is playing dolls on the front stoop.

Entering a large post office in most of our neighboring cities and towns you are faced with brown or grey tones, dull lighting, and non-descript p... boxes. There is often a line of people waiting in a roped off line, and a uniformed person behind the counter that few know by name.

In our trend toward regionalization, the small country post office is fast disappearing. North Orange and Warwick no longer have their own, and New Salem had to change to a contracted situation. (When U.S. postal service no longer exists in a small community, the town or a private party may bid for the option of mail delivery and distribution. But as in the New Salem Office, even with a little retail store, it is very hard to make a profit.)

In the summer of 1982 , the future of the Wendell Depot Post Office was rumored to be in jeopardy. The Depot's long-loved Postmaster, Lillian Gibbs, died on June 21. There was a chance that the post office would be closed and its customers parcelled out to Wendell or to Orange. The Depot Post Office services more than just the Depot-ites and Wendell's rural box holders on Wendell Depot Road. Mail to residents of parts of Erving, Orange, Warwick and Northfield is delivered through Wendell Depot.

In October of 1982, Raymond Avery started a petition to keep the Wendell Depot Post Office alive. A meeting was scheduled in November at the Wendell Town Hall, in order to hear the voice of the townspeople. The Selectmen were present and the turnout good. Both the petition and the community voice stated a strong desire to keep things as they were.

At one time, small post offices were eliminated, according to Glayds Pawling, Wendell Postmaster. But recently a decision was made by William Bolger, U.S. Postmaster General not to close post offices unless by the will of the people. Approval was received for the continuation of the U.S. Post Office at Wendell Depot, and so our little village post office lives. Anna Hartjens, who had substituted for Lil, was appointed Postmaster. She has been leasing the store section of the building from its owner, Sue Gauvin, Lil Gibbs' daughter, and plans to buy the building. "I don't make any money in the store," Annie says. "It's hard to get deliveries and I wouldn't want it larger anyway. But I like it here." And her customers seem to like her there. Her smile and greeting are as cheery as the bell on the door.

The Depot Post Office/Store is as it should be...a small community meeting place for a village without any other center. It is a place to see your neighbors and chat over a cup of coffee or herb tea. Outside on the old wood porch is a bulletin board that displays a public hearing on the location of a telephone pole; a job opening in the town maintainance department; Dave Mallet in concert here soon; a wood stove for sale.

A Depot-ite pauses, notes the hours that the post office is open(weekdays 7-11, 3:30-6 pm; Sat. 7-11 am); waves hello to Dave Froebal whose van pulls up, and pockets her mail addressed: P.O. Wendell Depot, Mass 01380.

Susan DunLany

New Salem Town-Academy Property Line

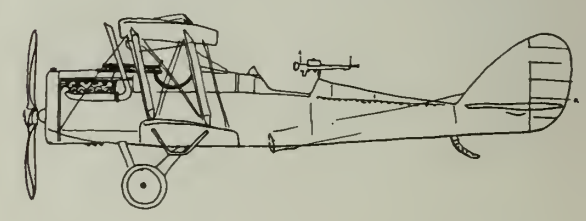
Records of the New Salem Town-Academy line cannot be found. The property line is in the process of being settled by agreement. This becomes necessary because the old center schoolhouse at the north end of the common is being sold by the town to Dorothy Johnson and her father; and the Academy property around"Academy Hall" at the south end of the common has been sold to Wesley Lombard and his wife. These properties require property lines that are related to the unkown Town-Academy line.

A property line proposal agreed to by the Academy trustees and the New Salem selectmen was to be presented for town approval at the special town meeting preceeding the annual town meeting of June 13,1983. Because of much controversy at the pre-town meeting hearing, the article was referred to a committee of five, appointed by the town moderator. The committee, Dorothy Johnson, Dick Short, Bruce Spencer, Ward Hunting, and Bradly Fisher were to report back to town meeting with a recommendation approved by the selectmen and New Salem Academy at a special town meeting.

The above committee now has a new proposal that has again been approved by the selectmen and the New Salem Academy trustees and will be ready for a town vote of approval at the next special town meeting. The proposal attempts to resolve all the previous conflicts, as well as any others that the committee could foresee. The Town-Academy property line will place the north-south roads and ways on the town common with some modification. "Academy Hall" will have adequate land to the west. The cemetary will have a right of way to its most southerly exit. The old Center School house building will have agreements for water and septic system requirements. The play ground equipment may stay where it is and be insured and maintained. Various Town-Academy agreements will settle parking lot and new road construction questions. The cost of implementing this agreement will be fairly shared.

There will probably be a hearing explaining this proposal fully one week before the special town meeting.. Watch for the announcement and plan to attend.

Bradly Fisher



FIREWOOD
LOG TRUCK LOADS
4 FOOT LENGTHS
STOVE LENGTHS

STAR ROUTE 10
WENDELL DEPOT
MASS. 01380

WILDWOOD FARM
FIREWOOD & LOGGING
WENDELL, MASS
617-544-2773

DAVID WILDER JUDY WILDER

Horseshoeing
Tony Diemand 617-544-3806

New Salem Auto
car sales and service
domestic and foreign
repairs
Tom Carey
544-2064
New Salem
Faye Rd.

Home of Flexatard leotards & tights
The Rose
on the square in Orange
Also Ballet
& tap shoes
Now open all day Wednesdays!